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By Brendy L. Belony

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

:Eiki HASHIMOTO

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:SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT.....

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated January 12, 2005 from the corresponding Japanese Application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed 11

as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated

that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will

determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search

will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not

more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, thus no fee is

due.

Any fee due with this statement may be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Bean Reg. No. 44,528

Customer Number: 026304 Docket No.: NEKU 19.181

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